


REMARKS

By the above amendment, the claims have been amended to delete multiple dependency.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kiyoharu HIRAO et al.

  
Bruce H. Bernstein *Reg. No. 33,329*  
Reg. No. 29,027

January 23, 2001  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1941 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191

204270-427000F

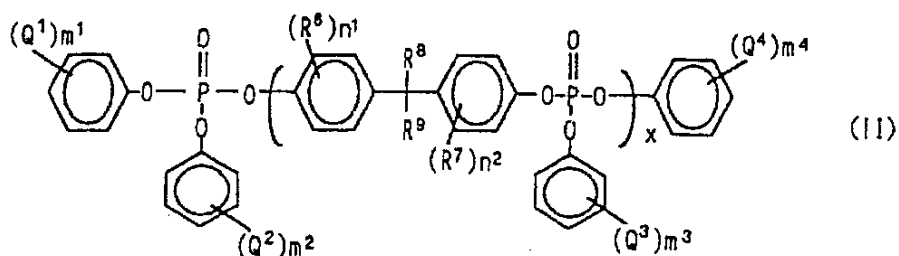
MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the ratio between the crude organic phosphoric ester and the epoxy compound is 1:1 to 1:20 (molar ratio) based on an acid value of the crude organic phosphoric ester.
4. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 3], wherein the treatment with the epoxy compound is carried out at 40 to 160°C.
5. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 4], wherein the organic phosphoric ester that has been treated with the epoxy compound is treated with water or an acidic aqueous solution in advance of the treatment with the alkaline aqueous solution.
6. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 5], wherein the alkaline aqueous solution is an aqueous solution of an alkali metal carbonate.
8. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 7], wherein an amount of an alkali compound in the alkaline aqueous solution is 0.1 to 50 molar equivalent with respect to the acid value of the crude organic phosphoric ester which is not yet treated with the epoxy compound.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 8], wherein a concentration of the alkaline aqueous solution is 0.01 to 10 wt%.

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 9], wherein the treatment with the alkaline aqueous solution is carried out at 60 to 120°C.

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 10], wherein the organic phosphoric ester is a compound represented by the general formula (II):



wherein  $Q^1$ ,  $Q^2$ ,  $Q^3$  and  $Q^4$ , the same or different, are an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 6,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are methyl groups,  $m^1$ ,  $m^2$ ,  $m^3$  and  $m^4$ , the same or different, are an integer of 1 to 3,  $n^1$  and  $n^2$ , the same or different, are an integer of 0 to 2, and  $x$  is an integer of 0 to 5.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 11], wherein the crude organic phosphoric ester is dehydrated in advance of the treatment with the epoxy compound.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 12], wherein the organic phosphoric ester that has been treated with the alkaline aqueous solution is washed with water and subjected to steam distillation.

2024.01.24.01.24.02